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S E C R E T RIYADH 001573

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/EX, DS/IP/NEA, DS/ITA, AND
DS/IP/SPC/MSG
RIYADH PASS TO DHAHRAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/20/2018
TAGS: AMGT ASEC CASC PGOV PREL PTER SA
SUBJECT: RIYADH EAC - 19 OCTOBER 2008

Classified By: DCM David Rundell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) BEGIN SUMMARY: On Sunday, October 19, the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) convened a regularly scheduled meeting of the Emergency Action Committee (EAC). The RSO and BPM said that threat reporting levels remained consistent and that no new, specific threats to U.S. interests were received. The RSO briefed the EAC on the progress of physical security upgrades, the dissemination of a new warden notice, and a survey of the security of the eight most frequently visited Western Compounds in Riyadh. The EAC agreed unanimously to cancel the special movement policies enacted before Eid al-Fitr for Embassy staff. Also present in the meeting were CONS, DATT, MED, MGT, POL, POL-MIL and PAS. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (S) RSO and BPM stated that while threat reporting levels remained consistent, there were no new, specific threats to U.S. interests.

¶3. (S) The RSO reported that physical security upgrades at the Embassy were proceeding on schedule. Construction of the Embassy's perimeter wall will be completed by November 1; lighting and security cameras will be addressed, with the Consular Section Door and Embassy Lobby upgrades scheduled to follow. Continual maintenance of Post's aged Delta Barriers are being addressed with the Department, a problem needing quick resolution. The RSO announced that a team will be coming from Washington to replace windows in Post's armored vehicle motorpool. The RSO and DATT will identify vendors for sandbag covers. The RSO also announced that Post's Internal Defense, Medical Response and Excavation Teams have been formed and are practicing.

¶4. (U) The Consular Section disseminated a warden notice on October 15. The notice drew on previously cleared language, advising American citizens to avoid staying in hotels or housing compounds that do not apply stringent security measures. The RSO noted that several members of the Overseas Security Advisory Council expressed their appreciation for the information in the warden notice.

¶5. (S) The RSO reported the results of his survey of the eight most frequently visited Western Compounds in Riyadh. Green City, FAL, Rumaizan, Arab Investment, Hamra, Kingdom and Arabian Homes Compounds were found to have adequate security programs in place. When the Cordoba Compound was reviewed by RSO, a poor showing by the Saudi Arabian National Guard soldiers resulted in a concern that was reported to the Ministry of Interior, resulting in a promise to improve its presence at such compounds.

¶6. (S) As there have been no new, specific threats to the U.S. Mission and Western interests, and the RSO had found that security at most Western Compounds remained good, the EAC rescinded the special movement policies enacted on

October 8, 2008; that policy prohibited embassy employees from visiting iconic hotels, souqs and Western Compounds without prior authorization from the RSO. However, all were reminded to avoid large gatherings of Westerners and to maintain vigilance and their situational awareness, as appropriate.

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